GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1381
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2016
Fruit Ripening Centres
Khadse Smt. Raksha Nikhil

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote conversion of agriculture produce into more marketable products by value addition in various forms such as processing of Raw-Banana into wafers and production of pan masala candy and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up fruit ripening centres near metro cities;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the schemes launched/ proposed for setting up the said ripening centres with cold storage facilities and the common packaging units to promote and facilitate ordinary individuals and common man to start agri-business?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a): In order to promote conversion / processing of agricultural and horticultural produce including Raw-Banana in the country, Ministry of Food Processing Industries had been implementing a Scheme namely Scheme for Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/ Modernization of Food Processing Industries up to 31.03.2012 which was subsumed in the Centrally sponsored Scheme (CSS)- National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) with effect from 01.04.2012 till 31.03.2015. Thereafter, the said scheme got delinked from Government of India's assistance and it was left to the State Governments to decide on its continuance from their increased resource as per recommendation of 14th Finance Commission.
Under the above schemes, financial assistance was provided in the form of Grant- in- aid to various target groups in eleven sectors viz. Consumer Foods, Bakery, Dairy, Fish, Flour, Fruits and Vegetables Processing, Meat, Oil, Pulse, Rice and Wine and Beer for the purpose of doing the processing/ value addition / shelf life enhancement of several agricultural and horticultural produce. The processing of Raw-Banana was covered under fruits and vegetable processing sector. The candy processing units were covered under consumer food sector. The committed pending liabilities under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/ Modernization of Food Processing Industries of 11th Plan period are still being considered for sanction and assistance. Under the scheme, 562 units were assisted during the year 2015-16 which include units under fruits and vegetable sector as well as under consumer food sector.

(b) to (d): Government do not set up fruit ripening centres on its own. However, the Government has been implementing two major schemes under which financial assistance is provided for setting up of cold storage facilities and ripening chambers to various entrepreneurs. The following is the details of the two schemes:

i). Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH): This scheme is being implemented by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root & tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for the projects relating to establishment of various components of cold chain including ripening chamber. For setting up of ripening chamber under the scheme, financial assistance is provided in the form of credit linked back ended subsidy @ 35% of the capital cost of project in general areas and 50 % in case of Hilly and scheduled areas.

ii). Scheme of Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure: This scheme is implemented by Ministry of Food Processing Industries as Central Sector Scheme with the objective of arresting post-harvest losses of horticulture & non-horticulture produce and providing remunerative price to farmers for their produce. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided in the form of grant-in-aid of maximum Rs10 Crore per project for setting up of integrated cold chain and preservation infrastructure facilities without any break from the farm gate to the consumer. This scheme is available in all States/UTs and rural & urban areas. Under this Scheme, the ripening chamber and cold storage can be set up either at the distribution hub or at minimal processing centres or at both locations.

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